

What would a Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) mean for Prairie Township?

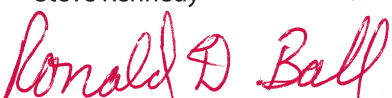
The Prairie Township Board of Trustees intends to put a Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ) on the ballot in November. Since a municipality must participate in a JEDZ agreement, the Township is partnering with the Village of Obetz. In doing this, it is asking Prairie Township voters to support enacting income taxes in the commercial strip in and around the vicinity of West Broad Street between I-270 and Hilliard-Rome Road as a way to avoid deep cuts in services without raising property taxes. The JEDZ would also allow Prairie Township to continue with previously planned projects intended to improve quality of life in the community.

As township revenues decrease because of changes in state funding, costs continue to climb. This community faces ever-increasing challenges. The Board of Trustees is seeking options that avoid increasing property taxes. JEDZ is an option that it is asking you as a resident and a voter to seriously consider.

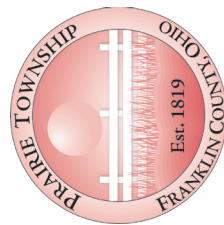
As trustees, we believe this is an option that will benefit the citizens of Prairie Township, whom we proudly serve.


Doug Stormont


Steve Kennedy


Ron Ball

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Visit our website
See the future of Prairie Township...

- Artists renderings
- Photographs
- Detailed map of the JEDZ

www.prairietownship.org

Prairie Township's Joint Economic Development Zone (JEDZ)



Police Protection



Snow Removal



Senior Center



Road Maintenance



Nuisance Clean-up & Zoning

The JEDZ is a way to maintain and expand current township services WITHOUT raising property taxes

What would the JEDZ do for me?

The JEDZ would redirect tax dollars being lost to other communities to Prairie Township projects, services and facilities. Without this help, recent reductions in revenue along with planned state funding cuts would have significant impacts on local services:

Current services that may face deep funding cuts without help:

- Road maintenance
- Law enforcement
- Senior center
- Nuisance clean-up and zoning

Previously planned improvements that could be provided with the help of JEDZ funding:

- Enhanced law enforcement – partnered with Franklin County
- Community center – partnered with Columbus
- West Broad Street improvements – partnered with ODOT

Why not cut spending?

The current Board of Trustees cut General Fund expenditures in half in their first year (2006) and have held the budget line. Now revenue cuts are threatening the balanced budget that they've achieved.

Look what we've already cut:

2005 General Fund spending	\$3,125,000
2006 General Fund spending	\$1,559,000
Reduction	\$1,566,000

Would JEDZ raise my taxes?

JEDZ would be limited to non-residential areas, therefore taxes would not increase for the vast majority of those living and/or owning property in Prairie Township.

The JEDZ would only impact the commercial strip in and around the vicinity of West Broad Street between I-270 and Hilliard-Rome Road. Here, JEDZ income taxes would be extended into the Prairie Township business corridor. Many of the workers and business owners in this area do not live in Prairie Township, and do not contribute to funding community services and projects as they would if they worked in a village or city. People working in the corridor that live in a city or village typically pay these taxes, which follow them to their home city or village instead of helping this community. (For example: If you work in Hilliard, but live in Galloway, you pay income tax to help Hilliard.)

Why the Village of Obetz?

JEDZs require that townships partner with a city or village. Prairie Township's partnership with Obetz makes sense because Obetz has a solid economic development record. We do not compete for the same kind of businesses. Also, Obetz is committed to working with the Township in a timely and cooperative manner. Obetz is able to cooperate with Prairie (making the JEDZ possible) because the two communities are not economic competitors and because the Village will receive some compensation for their efforts.

Did you know?

The JEDZ will not include or have any impact on any residential areas.

Did you know?

According to 2009 statistics, over 90% of Franklin County residents live in a city or village, almost all of which collect income taxes. Any of these residents who work in Prairie Township pay income taxes to those cities and villages. The JEDZ would redirect most of this revenue to the JEDZ area and the Township

Did you know?

The General Fund revenues fell by 20.7% between 2007 and 2010 and state cuts to the Local Government Fund alone will result in an estimated \$358,169 in additional cuts, which would represent another 23.2% cut in the fund.

Did you know?

Prairie Township's General Fund pays over \$300,000/year for enhanced law enforcement, close to \$250,000/year for road improvements, over \$50,000/year for public health services, over \$80,000/year for the senior center and over \$300,000/year to enforce nuisance, building and zoning standards.

Our state Local Government Fund revenue keeps shrinking...

2006 Local Government Fund.....	\$856,825
2010 Local Government Fund.....	\$716,338
Result of 25% cut implemented in 2011.....	\$537,254
Result of 25% cut implemented in 2012....	\$402,941
Over 50% cut since 2006.....	-\$453,884